

REMARKS

The office action of April 30, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over European Publication No. 0075448 to McKee.

Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over McKee in view of the patent to Fries.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, both references have been discussed in prior amendments and those comments are incorporated herein by reference. The following additional comments are also provided.

The Examiner is correct that applicant has not recited loosening only one blade of the pair in the claims. The claims are apparatus claims and the ability to loosen only one blade is due

to the structure of the claimed invention. The references do not teach a structure that provides this capability. Applicant does not see how this is an obvious design choice when the Examiner has provided no support for his determination. The criticality of the lower blade being completely exposed on one outwardly facing face is that it makes removal of the blade easier, which leads to easier maintenance. Applicant once again sees no basis for the Examiner's statement that this structure is obvious.

To reiterate, the blades of the presently claimed invention have a fastening that provides the capability of loosening and removing one blade of a pair of blades without loosening or effecting the positioning of the other blade of the pair of blades. This is not possible with the fastening of McKee. In McKee the blade carriers are identical in form. The blade 4 rests on the left side against a projection and the blade 5 rests on the right side against a projection. The upper pair of blades and the lower pair of blades are fastened by a threaded clamping element. During cutting or cropping a strip on blade is pressed against the clamping element.

According to the present invention, the left upper blade 3 is fastened to a projection 14 and the right upper blade 4 is

fastened to a projection 13. The fastening of each blade is separate from the other blade. An exchange, and in particular a loosening, of only one blade is possible. In McKee, on the other hand, both blades are necessarily loosened by loosening the clamping arrangement. It is not possible to loosen only one blade of a pair of blades in McKee, as in the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, contrary to McKee, in the presently claimed invention the lower pair of blades is mounted so that each blade of the lower pair of blades has a completely exposed surface facing away from the other blade of the lower pair of blades. The mounting of the lower pair of blades in McKee is completely different. There is no suggestion by McKee of the construction recited in the claims presently on file.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Fries only shows one knife pair. A combination of Fries and McKee does not teach the presently claimed invention for the

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reasons presented above.

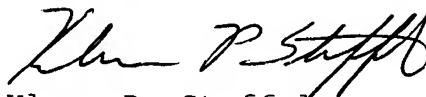
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Klaus P. Stoffel
Reg. No. 31,668

For: Friedrich Kueffner
Reg. No. 29,482

317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 30, 2008.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: July 30, 2008